

REMARKS

I. General

Claims 1, 3-8, 10-12 and 14-17 are pending in the application. All claims stand rejected under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections.

The specification is amended to include cross-reference information that was unavailable at the time of filing.

II. Double Patenting Rejections

Claims 1, 3-8, 10-12 and 14-17 stand rejected under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 2-4, 17-21 and 31 of U.S. Patent No. 6,954,706.

Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.130(c), obviousness-type double patenting rejections may be obviated by filing a terminal disclaimer in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.321(c). Applicant has filed herewith a terminal disclaimer meeting the requirements of § 1.321(c). Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 1, 3-8, 10-12 and 14-17.

III. Summary

In view of the above, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for immediate allowance. Applicant therefore requests that the Examiner pass all pending claims to issue.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 08-2025, under Order No. 200208754-1 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

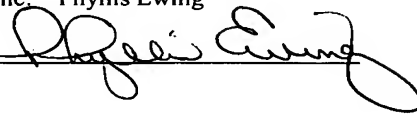
Application No. 10/644,559
Amendment dated: 01/10/2006
Reply to Office Action of October 25, 2005

Docket No.: 200208754-1

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail, Label No. EV 482724707 US in an envelope addressed to: M/S Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313.

Date of Deposit: 01/10/2006

Typed Name: Phyllis Ewing

Signature: 

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

Michael A. Papalas
Attorney/Agent for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 40,381
Date: 01/10/2006
Telephone No. (214) 855-8186